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Agenda item 98 (c)
Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Islamic Republic of Iran:* revised draft resolution

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/204 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

Noting with satisfaction that, as indicated in paragraph 1 of its resolution 55/204, the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held in Bonn from 11 to 22 December 2000,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting with satisfaction that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 12 October 2001,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the organization of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties as well as its special events,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Welcoming the strong appeal made to the Global Environment Facility Council by the President of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly urging the international community to designate the Facility as the financial mechanism of the Convention,

Also welcoming the insistent call made by the Secretary-General for the Convention to be provided with a financial mechanism similar to the one that the international community has identified for its two sister Conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3] and also for the new Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Further welcoming the decision taken by the Council of the Facility at its May 2001 session related to the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area of the Facility as a means of enhancing its support for the successful implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world, and that joint actions of the international community are needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, including the integration of strategies for poverty eradication,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, in particular the adoption of the Declaration on the Commitments to Enhance the Implementation of the Obligations under the Convention;

3. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, and invites Parties and other actors to participate in the first session of the Committee, which shall be held from 18 to 29 November 2002, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision 2/COP.5 of 12 October 2001;

5. *Invites* the next Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to be held in October 2002 in Beijing, to designate desertification as a focal area of the Facility and to identify the Facility as the principal financial mechanism for the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention of the Panel of Eminent Personalities to consider the effective and timely implementation of the Convention, and invites the co-organizers of the Panel to transmit the

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[2] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[3] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[4] A/56/175.

outcome of its work to the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

7. *Invites* the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take into account, in the course of its deliberations during the preparatory process and the Summit itself, the challenges of and opportunities in combating desertification, controlling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, including those relating to financial resources and achieving sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

8. *Notes with appreciation* that some affected developing countries have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and therefore calls upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention and contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

9. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing country parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention, and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in this regard encourages countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[5]

11. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to implement decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board pertaining to the cooperation between the Programme and the secretariat of the Convention;

13. *Approves* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the permanent secretariat of the Convention for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties not later than 31 December 2006;

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[5] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".